



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Friedman et al.

Appl. No. 10/040,375

Filed: January 9, 2002

For:

Apparatus for Transferring and Loading a Reticle With a Robotic

Reticle End-Effector (as amended)

Confirmation No. 4144

Art Unit: 3652

Examiner: D. Underwood

Atty. Docket: 1857.0690000

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

GROUP 3600

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not

be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- □ 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- □ 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
 - a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was

first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

- □ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- □ c. Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form [OR] Check No.

 _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37

 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- □ 4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form [OR] Check No. ______ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:
 - □ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - □ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more

than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

- The documents were cited in a search report by the Australian Patent Office in a ፟ 5. counterpart Australian application. A copy of the search report is enclosed as document AS1 on the attached PTO Form-1449.
- □ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- **7**. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. , filed , which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Jason D. Eisenberg

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 43,447

Date:

1100 New York Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005-3934

(202) 371-2600





Robert Greene Steme Edward J. Kessler Jorge A. Goldstein David K.S. Cornwell Robert W. Esmond Tracy-Gene G. Durkin Michaele A. Cimbala Michaele B. Ray Robert E. Sokohl Eric K. Steffe Michael O. Lee Steven R. Ludwig John M. Covert Linda E. Alcorn Robert C. Millonig Lawrence B. Bugaisky Donald J. Featherstone Michael V. Messinger Judith U. Kim Imnothy J. Shea, Jr. Patrick E. Garrett Heldi L. Kraus Edward W. Yee Albert L. Ferro* Donald R. Banowit Peter A. Jackman Molly A. McCall Ieresa U. Medler Jeffrey S. Weaver Kendrick P. Patterson Vincent L. Capuano Eldora Ellison Floyd Thomas C. Fiala Brian J. Del Buono Virgil Lee Beaston Kimberly N. Reddick Theodore A. Wood Elizabeth J. Haanes Joseph S. Oxtroff Frank R. Cottingham Christine M. Lhulier Rae Lynn Prengaman Jane Shershenovithe Lawrence J. Carroll* George S. Bardmesser Daniel A. Klein* Jason D. Eisenberg Michael D. Specht Andrea J. Kamage Tracy L. Muller* LuAnne M. Yuricek* John J. Figueroa Ann E. Summerfield Tiera S. Coston*

od Aric W. Ledford*
nes f
f Registered Patent Agents*
ham Karen R. Markowicz
lifier Nancy J. Leith
siman Helene C. Carlson
rich* Gaby L. Longsworth
roll* Matthew J. Dowd
nesser Aaron L. Schwartz
Mary B. Tung
th Katrina Y. Pei Quach
Byan L. Skelton
Robert A. Schwartzman
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Of Counsel Kenneth C. Bass III Evan R. Smith

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January 23, 2004

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WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER: (202) 772-8645 INTERNET ADDRESS: JASONE@SKGF.COM

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Art Unit 3652

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Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Re:

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Application No. 10/040,375; Filed: January 9, 2002

For: Apparatus for Transferring and Loading a Reticle With a Robotic

Reticle End-Effector (as amended)

Inventors:

Friedman et al.

Our Ref:

1857.0690000

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement;
- 2. Form PTO-1449 listing the cited documents;
- 3. Copies of the seven (7) cited documents and one (1) AU search report; and
- 4. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox PLLC. : 1100 New York Avenue, NW: Washington, DC 20005: 202.371.2600 f 202.371.2540: www.skgf.com

Commissioner for Patents January 23, 2004 Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Jason D. Eisenberg

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 43,447

JDE/crf Enclosures

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EXAMINER										
INITIAL .		NUM		DATE	NAME	С	LASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE	
	AA1	4,984		01/1991	Nakazato et al.					
	AB1	5,130		07/1992	Kikuiri et al.					
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	AL1	EP 0	452 041 A1	10/1991	Europe	н	01L	21/00	Yes No	
	AM1	wo o	3/013993 A1	02/2003	PCT	В	65G	49/07	Yes No	
	AN1	_							Yes No	
	AO1								Yes No	
	AP1								Yes No	
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	OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.) AR 1 English-language Abstract of JP 11-074182, published March 16, 1999, from http://www1.jpdl.jpo.go.jp. 9 Pages (last visited November 13, 2003)									
	November 13, 2003).									
	AS 1 Copy of Australian Search Report for Appln. No. SG 200300053-6, mailed November 20, 2003, 4 pages.									
										
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